Demand and supply of power in Assam

†2269. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the difference between demand and supply of electricity in the State of Assam;

(b) the steps taken so far to bridge the difference for improving the capacity of power generation in the State; and

(c) the improvement in the condition of the power in the State at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Details of power supply position in the State of Assam during the current year April 2002 to February, 2003) are as under:

	Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)
Requirement	3212	Peak Demand	668
Availability	3114	Peak Met	589
Shortage	98	Shortage	79
%	3.1	%	11.8

(b) Supply and distribution of power in a State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/State Power Utility. Government of India only supplements the efforts of State Governments by setting up power projects through Central Public Sector Undertakings to augment availability of power in the region. Following steps are being taken for augmenting availability of power in the State of Assam:

(i) Efforts are being made to generate up to full capacity at Ranganadi HEP (3x135MW) of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO).

(ii) Kopili Stage-II (1x25 MW) of NEEPCO is expected to be commissioned by July, 2003.

(iii) Lower Borpani (Karbi Langpi) (2x50 MW) project of ASEB is expected to be commissioned during 2004-05.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iv) Lakwa Waste Heat Unit (Gas Based: 38 MW) has been planned in the Tenth Plan.

(v) Following projects have been identified for Renovation and Modernization (R&M) Residual Life Assessment (RLA/Life Extension (LE) during the Tenth Plan period;

—	Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (4x60 MW)	-	R&M/LE
—	Namrup Thermal Power Stations Unit 1&2 (23 MW each)	-	LE
—	Lakwa Thermal Power Station Unit-2 (15 MW)	-	RLA/LE
—	Kopili Hydro Electric Project Stage-1 (2x50 MW)	-	R&M

(c) The power supply position in the State of Assam has improved since November, 2002 and there was no energy shortage in the State from November, 2002 to February, 2003.

Foreign power companies in power sector

2270. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has conveyed that its power companies were finding it difficult to fulfil their contracts in India in power projects;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to overcome these problems for smooth functioning of the US power companies;

(c) whether Nepal has also agreed to supply power to India to meet the shortage;

(d) if so, the total foreign companies at present working in the power projects; and

(e) the facilities being provided to them for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) During the visit by the Minister of Power to the US in the first half of October, 2002, the US